

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the title of the application to read as follows:

TRANSFERRING SPECULATIVE DATA IN LIEU OF REQUESTED DATA IN A DATA TRANSFER OPERATION ADAPTIVE EXTENSION OF SPECULATIVE DATA ACQUISITION FOR A DATA STORAGE DEVICE

Please amend the Abstract on page 25 to read as follows:

Method and apparatus for transferring speculative data in lieu of requested data in a data transfer operation. First data are transferred in response to an execution of a first pending command. Speculative data are transferred instead of second data associated with a second pending command during a next available latency period for the second data, preferably when the speculative data are adjudged as having a utility greater than a utility of the second data. The first and second commands are preferably received in a queue and a command execution algorithm identifies the second command as a next best command to be executed after execution of the first command. The above steps are preferably carried out by a controller of a data storage device.

A method for determining a speculative data acquisition in conjunction with an execution of a first access command relative to an execution of a second access command through execution of the read look ahead routine is disclosed.

The method includes reading the first and second access commands from a memory; deciding a data proximate the first command has a heightened opportunity of servicing a future request for data; and deducing a time period for acquiring the data based on an execution priority of the second access command.